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Immigration Statistics on the Web

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Summary

As immigration legislation is considered by Congress, the need for accurate information relating to immigration and immigrants has increased. This report identifies selected websites that provide general and statistical information on immigration topics. Selected government and organizational website addresses are included. As with all statistics, it is important to note the source and methodology when consulting immigration statistics, taking into account any organizational bias. This report will be updated periodically as new information becomes available and to ensure the currency of the Web addresses.

The selected websites examining immigration issues listed below are divided into three categories: federal government, state information, and nongovernment. A brief description, often provided from the agency/organization website, accompanies each data source with details on related links.

Federal Government Sources

Legal Immigration

Department of Homeland Security. The primary federal source for immigration statistics is the Office of Immigration Statistics (OIS), within the Office of Policy of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). OIS produces several reports on aspects of immigration, [http://uscis.gov/graphics/shared/statistics/index.htm]. The most comprehensive is the *Yearbook of Immigration Statistics*, which includes tables on legal permanent residents, refugees and asylees, nonimmigrant admissions, naturalization, and enforcement, at [http://uscis.gov/graphics/shared/statistics/yearbook/index.htm]. The website also lists monthly statistical reports as well as fiscal year end statistical reports, at [http://uscis.gov/graphics/shared/statistics/publications/index.htm].

The Department of State. The *Report of the Visa Office* is an annual report providing statistical information on immigrant and nonimmigrant visa issuances by consular offices, as well as information on the use of visa numbers in numerically limited

categories, [http://travel.state.gov/visa/frvi/statistics/statistics_1476.html]. For current information on the availability of immigrant numbers, see the latest *Visa Bulletin* at [http://travel.state.gov/visa/frvi/bulletin/bulletin_2847.html].

Foreign Born Population

U.S. Census Bureau American FactFinder. Using American FactFinder on the Census Bureau's website, the following data on noncitizens[1] are available: population counts (for urban/rural and metropolitan/ nonmetropolitan areas), population housing units, land area and density (for all states), group quarters (population by age and sex), historic population counts, and population projections. See [http://factfinder.census.gov/ servlet/SAFFPeople?_submemuId=people_0&_sse=on].

Labor and Business Data

Department of Labor. The Division of Foreign Labor Certification (DFLC), within the Department of Labor, provides policy guidance to carry out the responsibilities of the Secretary of Labor under the Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended, concerning foreign workers seeking admission to the United States for employment, at [http://workforcesecurity.doleta.gov/foreign/]. For information on the wage levels for permanent and temporary workers, see the Foreign Labor Certification Data Center site, at [http://www.flcdatacenter.com].

Executive Office for Immigration Review. The Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR), within the Department of Justice, interprets and administers federal immigration laws by conducting immigration court proceedings, appellate reviews, and administrative hearings. EOIR produces a statistical yearbook that contains statistical information on immigration courts, the Board of Immigration Appeals, immigration judge decisions appealed, and total cases received and completed. See [http://www.usdoj.gov/eoir/statspub/syb2000main.htm].

Unauthorized Migration

U.S. Coast Guard. The Coast Guard enforces immigration law at sea, conducting patrols and interdicting undocumented migrants at sea, denying them entry via maritime routes to the United States. This site provides statistics on the number of interdictions at sea from 1982 to present. Click on "Statistics" on the left, at [http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-o/g-opl/AMIO/AMIO.htm].

Department of Homeland Security. The Department of Homeland Security describes estimates of the size of the unauthorized immigrant population residing in the United States, by state of residence and country of origin, in their report *Estimates of the Unauthorized Immigrant Population Residing in the United States: 1990 to 2000*, at [http://uscis.gov/graphics/shared/statistics/publications/Ill_Report_1211.pdf].

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[1] Noncitizens are legal immigrants and nonimmigrants.

State Information

National Council of State Legislatures (NCSL). NCSL is a bipartisan organization serving state legislators and their staffs. NCSL provides research on issues of interest to the states, at [http://www.ncsl.org/index.htm]. From their immigration overview page at [http://www.ncsl.org/programs/immig/index.htm], there are links to statistics on immigrants, [http://www.ncsl.org/programs/immig/immigstatistics.htm]; state immigrant offices, [http://www.ncsl.org/programs/immig/immigstateoffices05.htm]; and state legislation, [http://www.ncsl.org/print/immig/2006Immigstatelegisoverview.pdf].

Nongovernment Sources

The organization websites listed below provide information on immigration and their data sources. The brief description of the organization was obtained from the website. Listing here does not constitute a CRS endorsement of the organization.

Pew Hispanic Center. Founded in 2001, the Pew Hispanic Center, [http://www.pewhispanic.org], is a nonpartisan research organization supported by the Pew Charitable Trusts. The center "conducts and commissions studies on a wide range of topics with the aim of presenting research that at once meets the most rigorous scientific standards and is accessible to the interested public." It regularly conducts public opinion surveys providing Latino views on a range of social matters and public policy issues, including immigration. Although the focus is on the Latino population, there are a number of studies that provide data on non-Latino immigrants, including current estimates of the unauthorized population, such as the study entitled *Unauthorized Migrants: Numbers and Characteristics*, at [http://pewhispanic.org/reports/report.php?ReportID=46].

The Center for Comparative Immigration Studies. Established in 1999, a campus-wide research unit of the University of California-San Diego, CCIS conducts basic and policy-oriented research projects on international migration and refugee flows throughout the world, [http://www.ccis-ucsd.org/]. They compare the "U.S. immigration experience" with "other countries of immigration, especially in Europe and the Asia-Pacific region." Their working papers on immigration issues can be viewed at [http://www.ccis-ucsd.org/PUBLICATIONS/working_papers.htm].

Center for Immigration Studies (CIS). Founded in 1985, the CIS is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit research organization "devoted exclusively to analyzing the economic, social, demographic, fiscal, and other impacts of immigration on the United States. The center is animated by a pro-immigrant, low-immigration vision which seeks fewer immigrants but a warmer welcome for those admitted." See [http://www.cis.org]. A section entitled "Current Numbers" provides statistical information on immigrants, at [http://www.cis.org/topics/currentnumbers.html].

Institute for the Study of International Migration, Georgetown University. Founded in 1998 as part of the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service and affiliated with the Law Center at Georgetown University, ISIM focuses on all aspects of international migration, including the causes of and potential responses to population

movements, immigration, and refugee law and policy. See ISMI's website at [http://www.georgetown.edu/sfs/programs/isim/index.html].

Inter-University Committee on International Migration. Established in 1974, the Inter-University Committee on International Migration provides information on migration and refugee studies at member institutions, including Boston University, Brandeis University, The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Harvard University, MIT, Tufts University, and Wellesley College. The committee is chaired by MIT as a program of the Center for International Studies, [http://web.mit.edu/cis/www/migration].

Migration Policy Institute (MPI). Founded in 1989, the MPI originated as the Carnegie Endowment's International Migration Policy Program "to analyze the movement of people worldwide," see [http://www.migrationpolicy.org]. On May 22, 2002, the Migration Information Source at [http://www.migrationinformation.org] was launched by the MPI to provide current data and analysis on migration and refugee issues.